

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Livestock Assistance Program (LAP)

Rockcastle County has been added to the counties as being approved for the Livestock Assistance Program for the 2001 crop year.

To be eligible for LAP, the county must have suffered at least a 40 percent grazing loss for three or more consecutive months in a calendar year. A producer may receive a LAP payment on a per-head basis of eligible livestock when the producer has control of adequate grazing land to support the eligible livestock. Eligible livestock include: beef and dairy cattle, buffalo, bison, sheep, goats, swine and other certain equine animals.

To qualify, a livestock producer must have suffered a 40 percent or greater loss of grazing production for three or more consecutive months due to drought, hot weather, disaster, insect infestation, flood, fire, hurricane, earthquake, severe storm or other natural disaster. LAP payments will be reduced by the amount of assistance received by that producer under previous Livestock compensation programs (LCP-1, (LCP-11) and the 2002 Cattle Feed Program. A producer must possess beneficial and financial interests in eligible livestock that have been owned or leased for at least three months. A \$40,000 payment limitation also applies to LAP assistance.

Warehouse Designation

As a condition of price support of burley tobacco producers are required to inform FSA of the warehouse where they will market tobacco. This is acquired by completing the form FSA-808, Warehouse Designation, to indicate where the tobacco will be sold initial designation period will end August 1st.

After the initial designation period ends, producers will be limited to designate for the term to any one day during the following regular re-designation periods:

• September 29-October 7, 2003 with the marketing card being effective October 13, 2003.

• November 3-November 7, 2003 with the marketing card being effective November 17, 2003.

• December 1-December 5, 2003 with the marketing card being effective December 15, 2003.

• December 26 - January 2, 2004 with the marketing card being effective January 12, 2004.

• February 2 - February 6, 2004 with the marketing card being effective February 16, 2004.

• March 1 - March 5, 2004 with the marketing card being effective March 15, 2004.

The warehouse number will be indicated with a number on the marketing card. Therefore, if a producer decides to market at a warehouse other than the one specified on the

card. The producer must return the card to the FSA office in a specific time period to request another marketing card.

FSA has a listing for public notice of warehouses, receiving stations and dealers posted on the bulletin board in the county office available through March 31st.

Disaster Leasing

Farmers who suffer a burley tobacco disaster must file a report with FSA prior to harvest to retain eligibility to lease quota away under the disaster lease provisions. The disaster lease provision was implemented to provide relief to producers that suffer a disaster loss and are unable to produce and market the farm's effective quota. To be eligible to disaster lease and transfer, the transferring farm must file a crop acreage report, file the effective quota, provide a measurement fee, have suffered more than a 20% loss and meet all price support eligibility requirements. If determined eligible for disaster lease, the measurement fee will be refunded to the producer.

Remember, if you are a producer whose tobacco is suffering from severe weather conditions, black shank, blue mold, root disease, etc., come to the FSA office and file under the disaster provisions PRIOR TO HARVEST.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The FSA office has Farm Storage Facility Loans available to producers who have a need for increased storage. In order to be eligible, a producer must have a satisfactory credit history, have no delinquent federal debt, be a producer of a facility loan commodities such as corn, soybeans or wheat, demonstrate the ability to repay the debt and be in compliance with USDA provisions for highly erodible land and wetlands.

Continuing CRP Sign-up

Eligible acreage devoted to certain special conservation practices

such as riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways, shelter belts, living stone fences, contour grass strips, salt tolerance vegetation and shallow water areas for wildlife may be enrolled in an annual USDA CRP's continuous CRP sign-up. These practices are not subject to competitive bidding. For more information, contact your local FSA office.

Farm Changes

Producers who have purchased or sold land should inform the FSA office of the change. A signed deed or land contract sales is required to update FSA records with correct ownership. Producers are also reminded to inform the FSA office of any change of address.

Yards to Paradise

by Max Phelps

So You Want a Water Garden?

When planning to build a water garden, considerations must be addressed. First, what aspect of a water feature is important to you. Then, where, how large, and the cost. And if not an avid do-it-yourselfer, how should you go about hiring someone to complete your project.

When it comes to what you want in a water feature, it is large or small, with or without fish, simple or grandly fashioned, a gentle waterfall at ponds edge or a roaring cascade of water over multiple waterfalls. I would encourage future pond owners to go ahead and build the water garden of their dreams. (So often, folks wish they had built a bigger one and end up re-doing it after a few years.)

If it is mostly fish you are inter-

ested in, then you may need just a pond, a few plants, plus filtration and aeration. For koi, clean water and two feet or more depth is desirable. Goldfish do well with less water and lesser water quality.

Maybe it is a waterfall you mainly want, if so, a small pond/reservoir or even a pondless waterfall may work.

Desire a bubbling brook or a roaring mountain waterfall. Visit some of nature's finest for inspiration. Consider if they could be duplicated in your own backyard.

Even bringing the element of falling water indoors is a real special treat for those who have tried it.

I recently worked on such a project, and let me tell you, it was wild.

Including the deer, bobcat, and wild turkey and logs and rocks for

decoration.

Now that you have narrowed the type of water garden or its function, where should you put it? Some decide out front for the curb appeal, some bring it inside, but most often folks opt for a backyard location. What views, what seating/observatory areas would you be most likely to enjoy it from. Can you hear it from your favorite outdoor seating area and see it?

Or will you build the water garden and in time put a path to it. (Or add a love seat, or a gazebo.)

It chagrins me to meet someone who asks for a price quote on constructing a water feature to be located where they must go out of their way to, even view or appreciate it unless they also plan to create a new outdoor room for quiet, get-away thoughts of for entertaining purposes. Water gardens should be located where they will be enjoyed.

When it comes to size, I hesitate to suggest an ideal size, an 8x10 size might be good for one 15 x 21 like mine. Rather, how big do you think you want? (Then do it a bit bigger, if you budget will allow it.)

How about the cost? Well, low-end systems put in by the do-it-yourselfer method may run a few hundred dollars. High quality systems with state-of-the-art filtration systems may run towards a couple thousand dollars just for the liner, pump, skimmer-filter, waterfall filter unit, etc. Plus plants, rocks, etc. And if hiring a qualified contractor, add his labor and overhead charges, not

to mention something for taxes and a profit.

Literally, a budget of a few thou-

sand dollars may be required. Tens of thousands for really large and outstanding residential or commercial waterfalls, fountains, etc.

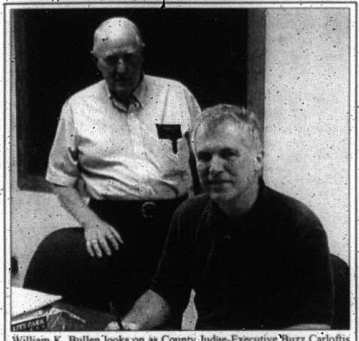
Who should build your water garden? Maybe you would enjoy spending a vacation or several weekends doing it yourself? (If you could change the windows and doors to your home yourself, perhaps if you would tackle pouring your own concrete driveway yourself, or buying a pre-cut gazebo and assembling it yourself, then a water garden might be a piece of cake for you. If so, enjoy creating something very special. You will be rightfully proud of your creation!)

But if spending 30 to 100 hours sweating with shovels and carrying heavy stones (about 5 or 6 tons for the average pond) and troubleshooting leaks are not exactly your forte, it might be wise to hire a qualified or certified contractor.

Carefully select a company or qualified craftsman who will demonstrate his abilities with references, pictures, and some considerable experience in the sort of project you have in mind. He should carry insurance in case damage to your property were to occur, and be willing to agree to a stated contract price in advance.

Best of everything to you if you are ready to join the growing number of homeowners who have added a pond and some fish or even a large water feature. Water is a big plus if one wants paradise at home in the backyard.

The author is a landscaper and freelance writer. Visit www.rockcastle.com to submit comments.



William K. Bullen looks on as County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotts signs a proclamation declaring September 21-27 National Farm Safety Week in Rockcastle County.

Farm Safety Week Proclamation

Whereas the men and women who work in America's agricultural sector make a vital contribution to our nation's well-being by providing high quality food and fiber at reasonable costs, and

Whereas for generations the men and women who work on our state's farms have endured long hours of tough physical labor and have met the challenges of their vocation with determination and pride, and

Whereas increased awareness of physical and emotional dangers inherent in all aspects of farming and dedication to safe practices within the farm community will promote farming as a safer occupation, and

Whereas the harvest season is an excellent time to express concern and

to renew support for programs to protect their health and safety.

Now therefore, I, County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotts, do hereby declare and proclaim the week of September 21-27, 2003 as National Farm Safety Week in Rockcastle County. I urge all Rockcastle County residents engaged in farming or its related industries to strive to instill a respect for and commitment to safety and health care practices in all those who might be influenced by their example.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 21st day of September, 2003.

Buzz Carlotts
County Judge-Executive



Words of Hope

Do Christians get depressed? Of course they do. Many of the greatest leaders recorded in the Bible struggled with depression. Moses, who led in nation out of slavery, felt overwhelmed with his responsibility and grew depressed. Yea, he prayed to God and found strength to continue. So why should we feel guilty when we are down? Talk to God about your feelings, and allow Him to help you through your struggle with depression.

—A message of hope from your friends at
Mt. Vernon Pentecostal Church

Absolute

Auction

of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Hutcherson's

173 Acre Farm More or Less in Tracts

Saturday, September 27th • 10:30 a.m.

Near Broughtontown Section of Lincoln County

Directions: From Stanford take Hwy 27 South approximately 10 miles to Hwy 1781. Follow Hwy 1781 approximately 5 3/10 miles to the auction or from Crab Orchard take Hwy 643 4 4/10 miles to Hwy 1781. Follow Hwy 1781 approximately 5 9/10 miles to the auction. Auction signs are posted.

It is becoming more and more difficult to find small tracts of land with a few acres for your home, or mobile home use! Here is the opportunity to choose property with a little elbow room or a large farming operation! When combined there is a total of 173 acres with approximately 95 acres cropland and the balance in woodland. Each tract will be sold separately, in combinations, and then offered together, selling in whatever manner reflects the best returns for the seller.

For specific tract sizes or additional information visit our website at www.fordbrothersinc.com

Terms: 20% down the day of the auction with the balance due on or before 30 days with delivery of the deed.

Auctioneer/Broker/Seller Disclaimer: The information contained herein is believed to be correct to the best of the auctioneer's knowledge. The information is being furnished for the bidder's convenience and it is the responsibility of the bidder to determine the information contained herein is accurate and complete. The property being sold is being sold in it's as is condition. No warranties express or implied.

For free brochure or plat contact Ford Brothers, Inc. Auctioneers & Realtors.

www.fordbrothersinc.com

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Announcing The Opening
Of A New Department

"THE BALCONY"

At The Apparel Shop

We Are Having A

STOREWIDE
CELEBRATION
SALE!

Sale Includes Items On First And Second Floors Of The Apparel Shop

Name Brands Include: Koret, Alfred Dunner, Pendleton, Miss Dorby, Southern Ladies, Sportswear, Henry Lee Dresses, Vanity Fair

Barbara Ann Napier Invites
All Of Her Former Customers
To Stop By And See Her On

"The Balcony" At
The Apparel Shop

Sale Does Not Include Flares History And Fenton Glass



The Apparel
Shop

37 Public Square
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Spring &
Summer
Wear

50% - 75% Off

New Fall
Merchandise

25% Storewide

Arriving Daily

New Fall &
Winter Coats

25% Off

Long & Short Styles By
Kristen Blake & Pendleton

All Jewelry
Storewide

33% Off

Ladies
Purses

25% - 50% Off